

# Animal tales from **ARUNACHAL PRADESH**





# ANIMAL TALES FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Arunachal Pradesh, the Land of the Dawn Mountains, presents a spectacle of rich diversity, not only in its topography but also in the cultural life of the people.

The rich folklore of the area, which has been handed down by word of mouth from one generation to another, is significant. It is a mirror of their joys and sorrows, triumphs and anxieties — a veritable reflection of their collective unconscious depicting deeper aspects of life and the way they sought to meet new challenges.

A few of them have been adapted for children and retold in this Chitra Katha.



Date: 1.4.1981

(R.N.Haldipur)  
Lieutenant Governor,  
Arunachal Pradesh

'The Frog and the Monkey' and 'The Frog and the Tiger' have been taken from the book by Verrier Elwin.

The rest of the stories have been taken from Folktales of the NOCTE collected by Dipak Kumar Dutta, Research Assistant, Tirup District, Khonsa.

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Artwork: Ram Waeerkar

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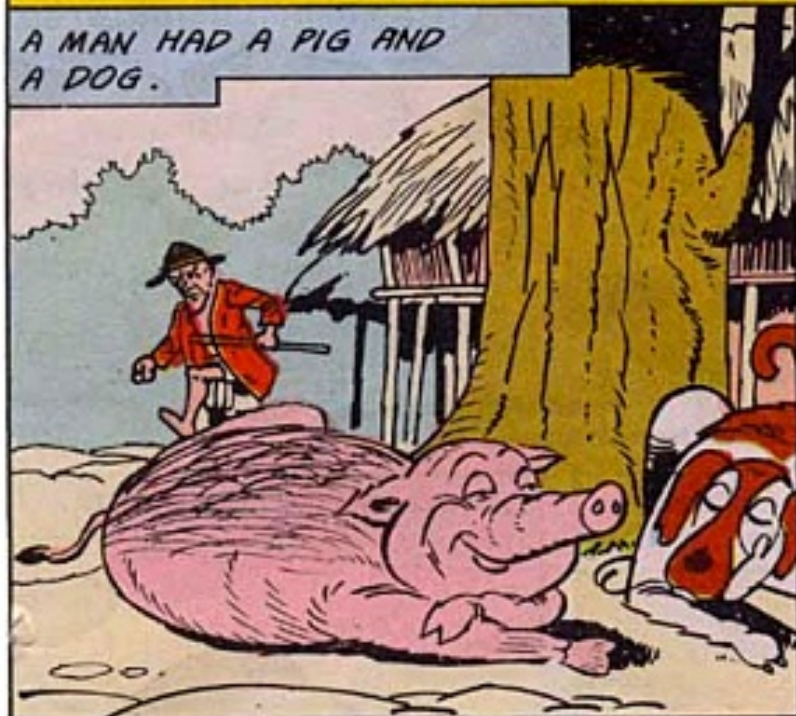


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# THE PIG AND THE DOG

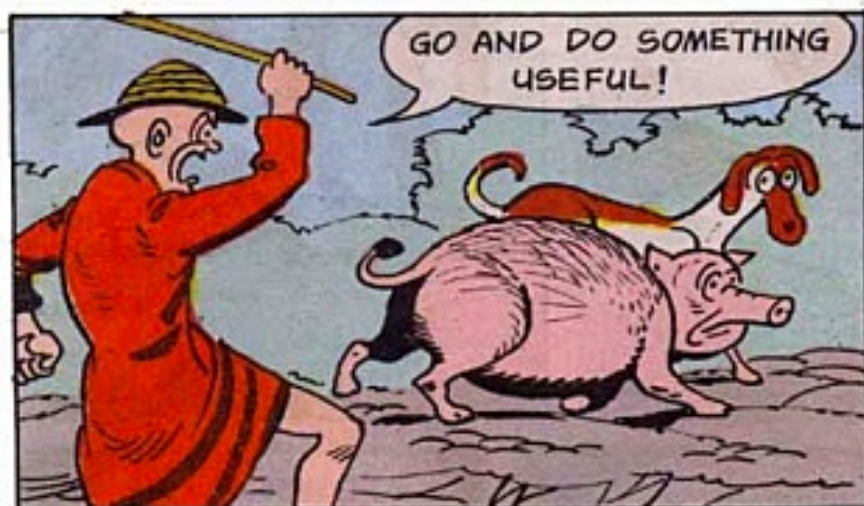
A MAN HAD A PIG AND A DOG.



ONE DAY HE SUDDENLY REALISED THAT THE TWO ANIMALS DID NO WORK AT ALL.



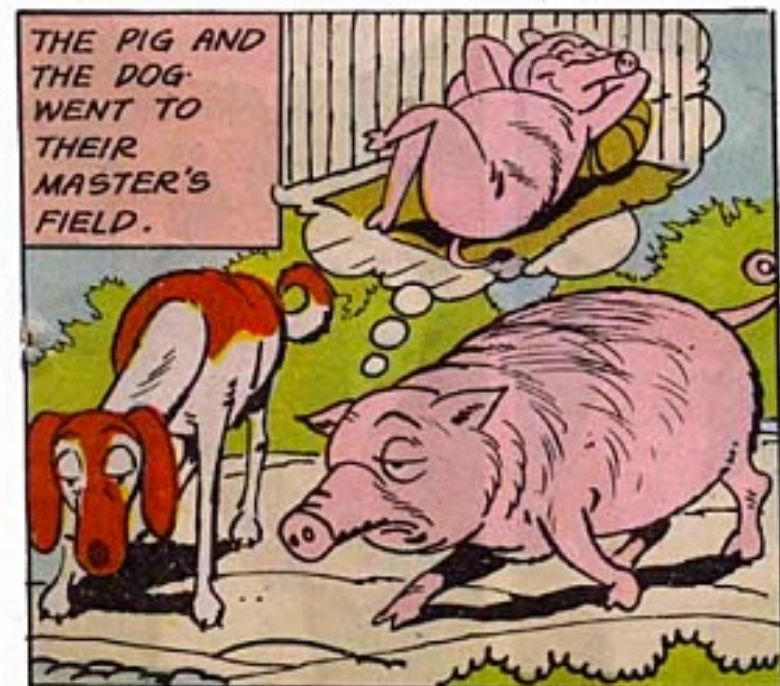
GO AND DO SOMETHING USEFUL!



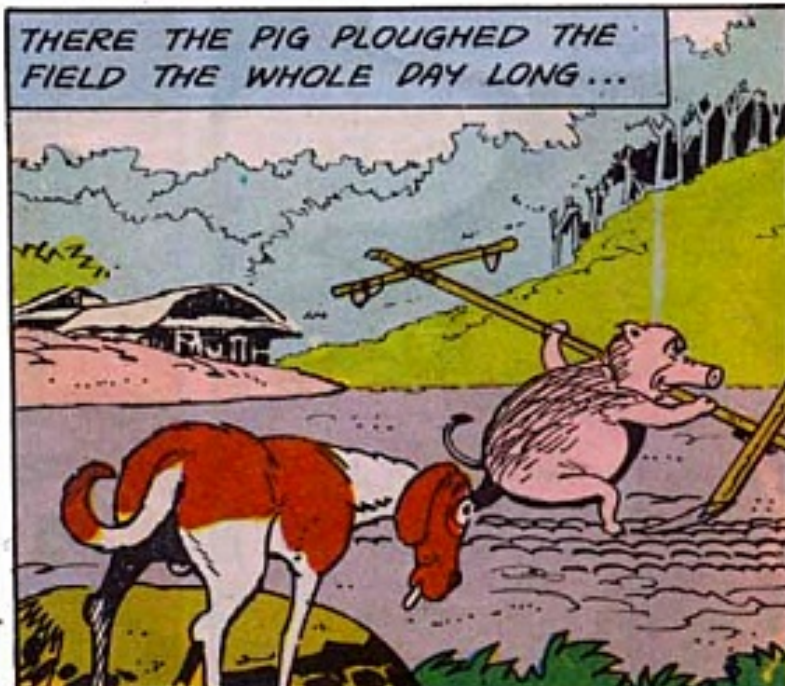
WHICHEVER OF YOU DOES SOME WORK MIGHT FIND A PLACE IN MY HOUSE.



THE PIG AND THE DOG WENT TO THEIR MASTER'S FIELD.



THERE THE PIG PLOUGHED THE FIELD THE WHOLE DAY LONG...





...WHILE THE DOG SLEPT.



IN THE EVENING —



HAVE YOU FINISHED?

YES... AND I AM EXHAUSTED.

AS THE PIG WEARILY SET OFF FOR HOME, THE DOG JUMPED INTO THE FIELD...



...RAN UP AND DOWN SEVERAL TIMES...



...AND THEN FOLLOWED HIM.



THAT NIGHT —



WHAT WORK DID YOU DO TODAY?

I PLOUGHED THE FIELD, MASTER.



AND YOU?

MASTER...



...IT WAS I WHO PLOUGHED THE FIELD.



I WILL HAVE  
TO FIND OUT  
THE TRUTH  
FOR MYSELF.



THE MAN GOT UP EARLY NEXT MORNING  
AND WENT TO THE FIELD. WHEN HE  
RETURNED —

ARE YOU SATISFIED  
WITH MY WORK,  
MASTER?

WHAT  
WORK?



I PLOUGHED  
YOUR  
FIELD.

YOU  
LIAR!



I SAW ONLY THE  
DOG'S FOOTPRINTS  
IN THE SOIL. IT  
WAS HE WHO  
PLOUGHED  
THE FIELD.

BUT...  
BUT...



GO AWAY,  
YOU LAZY  
CREATURE.



COME, DOG.  
YOU HAVE DONE  
SOME HARD WORK.  
YOU MAY COME  
INTO THE HOUSE  
WITH ME.



EVER SINCE DOGS HAVE STAYED IN  
THEIR MASTERS' HOUSES AND PIGS  
HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOWED INSIDE.



# THE OWL AND THE TIGER

ONE DAY THE BIRDS  
AND ANIMALS OF  
THE EARTH HELD  
A MEETING...



...AT WHICH THEY CHOSE THE TIGER  
TO BE KING OF THE JUNGLE...



...AND THE OWL TO BE  
HIS MINISTER.



BUT THE KING AND HIS  
MINISTER HAD QUITE  
DIFFERENT NATURES.  
THE TIGER WAS RASH...



...AND THE OWL WAS PROUD





ONE DAY THEY HAD AN ARGUMENT ...



...WHICH TURNED INTO A QUARREL. THE ANGRY TIGER SLAPPED THE OWL SO HARD...



...THAT THE OWL'S FACE BECAME FLAT!



THE ANGRY BIRD PICKED UP A BURNING LOG ...



...AND STRUCK THE TIGER WITH IT, LEAVING LONG BLACK STRIPES ON ITS BODY.



SINCE THAT DAY OWLS HAVE FLAT FACES AND TIGERS BLACK STRIPES ON THEIR BODIES.





# WHY CRABS HAVE FLAT BODIES

THERE ONCE LIVED A CRAB NEAR A RIVER. ONE DAY AS HE WAS LOOKING LONGINGLY AT THE FRUIT ON A TALL TREE, HIS FRIEND THE MOUSE CAME ALONG.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT SOME OF THOSE FRUIT?

I WOULD LOVE TO.

I'LL CLIMB UP AND THROW SOME DOWN FOR YOU.

THE MOUSE CLIMBED THE TREE...

...AND BEGAN TO THROW THE FRUIT DOWN.

ONE OF THEM HIT A NEST OF RED ANTS.

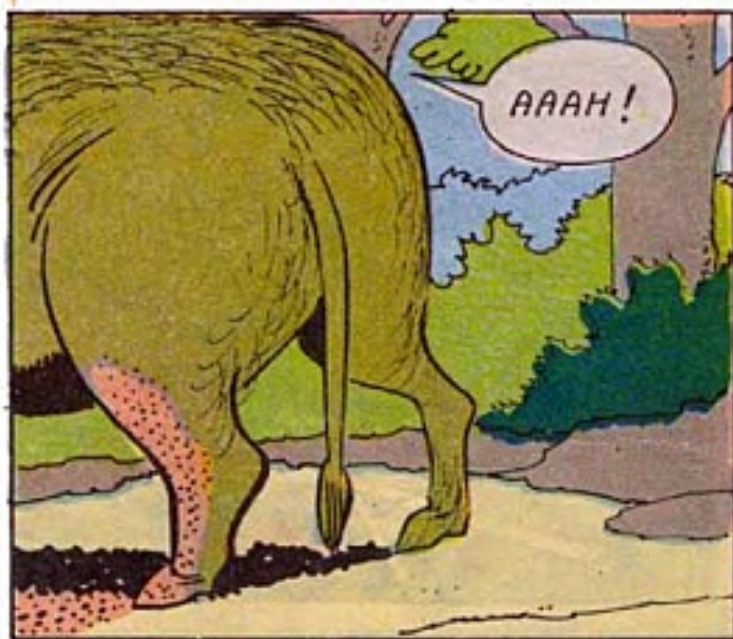
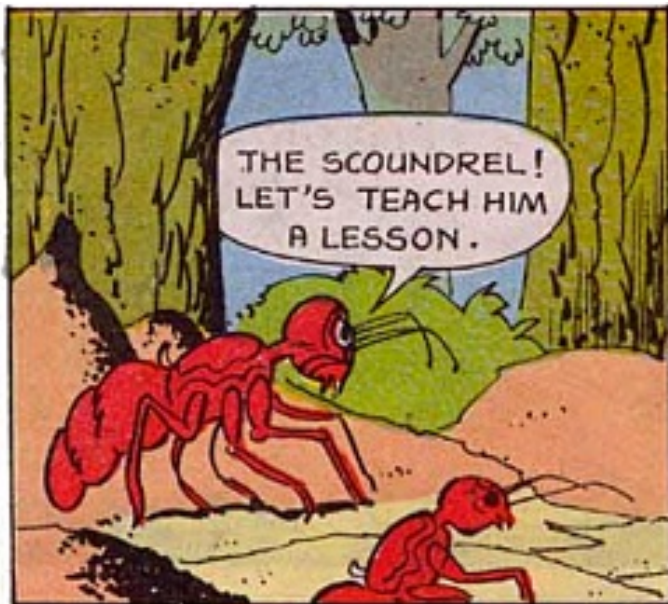
THUD

THE ANTS GOT FURIOUS AND RUSHED OUT OF THEIR NEST.

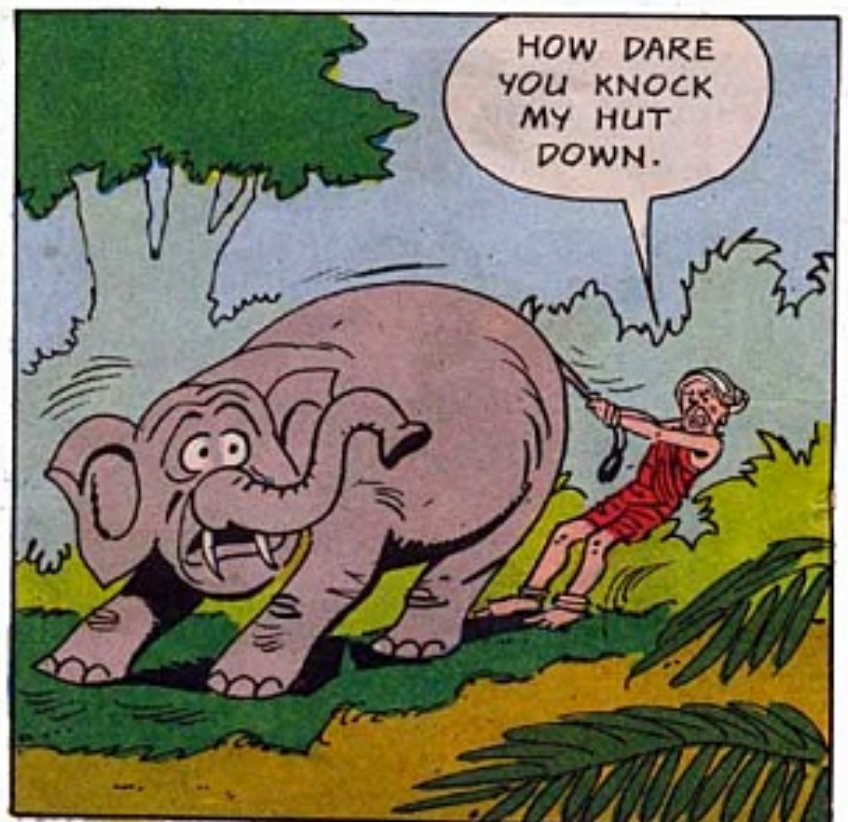
WHO DID THAT?

IT MUST BE THAT BOAR!

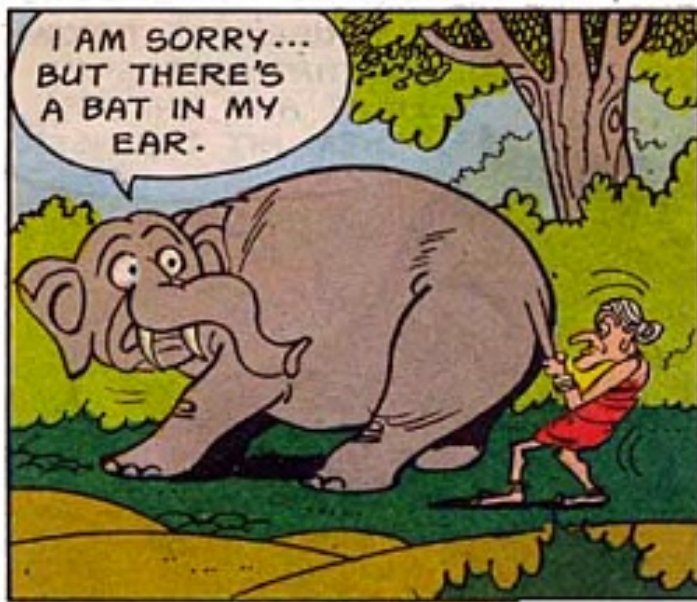














WHEN THE OLD WOMAN QUESTIONED THE ANTS —

WE HAD GOOD REASON TO ATTACK HIM. HE BROKE OUR NEST.

I DIDN'T.

A MOUSE WAS THROWING THAT CRAB SOME FRUIT AND ONE OF THEM HIT THE NEST.

WHEN THE CRAB WAS QUESTIONED —

I...ER...YES. ONE OF THE FRUIT DID HIT THE NEST.

SO YOU ARE TO BE BLAMED FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF MY HUT. YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE ME SOMETHING TO MAKE UP FOR IT.

SHE IS RIGHT.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL GET YOU SOMETHING FROM MY HOUSE.

THE CRAB CREEPT UNDER A STONE...



...AND STAYED THERE.

COME OUT!  
COME OUT!

FINALLY THE  
WOMAN AND  
THE ANIMALS  
GOT VERY  
ANGRY.

LET'S PRESS  
THE ROCK DOWN  
ON HIM.



OH-OH!

HELP!

THAT'S  
ENOUGH!

THE OLD WOMAN AND THE  
ANIMALS WENT AWAY.

SOMETIME LATER THE CRAB  
CRAWLED OUT FROM UNDER THE  
ROCK BUT HE HAD BECOME AS  
FLAT AS A PANCAKE.

CRABS EVER SINCE HAVE  
HAD FLAT BODIES.



# THE OTTER AND THE WILDCAT

AN OTTER AND A WILDCAT HAD BECOME FRIENDS. ONE DAY THE OTTER ACCOMPANIED THE CAT TO A VILLAGE.

I'LL STEAL A CHICKEN FOR YOU AND ONE FOR ME...

...BUT KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MEN. SHOUT A WARNING IF YOU SEE ANY OF THEM COMING TOWARDS ME.

THE CAT CREEPT INTO A HUT...

...AND CAUGHT A FOWL.

BUT THE FOWL SQUAWKED SO LOUDLY THAT THE INMATES OF THE HOUSE AWOKE...

...AND BEGAN TO CHASE THE CAT.

THE OTTER WHO WAS WATCHING WAS TERRIFIED.



AFTER THOSE  
PEOPLE CATCH HIM,  
THEY'LL COME  
AFTER ME.



I'D BETTER GET  
OUT OF HERE.



AND THE OTTER RAN AWAY  
AS FAST AS HE COULD.

BUT THE CAT GOT AWAY FROM  
HIS PURSUERS AND CAUGHT  
UP WITH THE OTTER.



YOU  
COWARD!

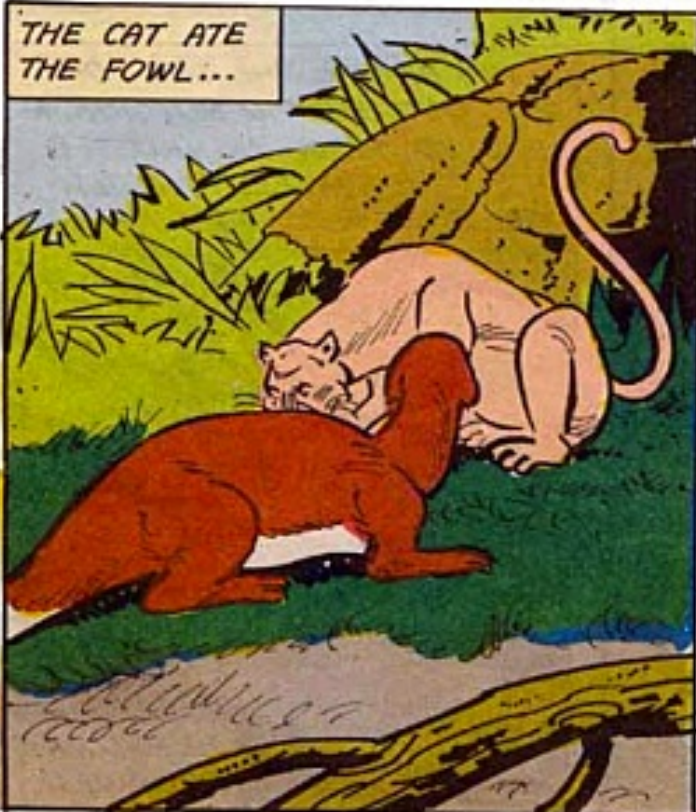
I...I AM  
SORRY.



I AM NOT USED  
TO THIS SORT  
OF THING.

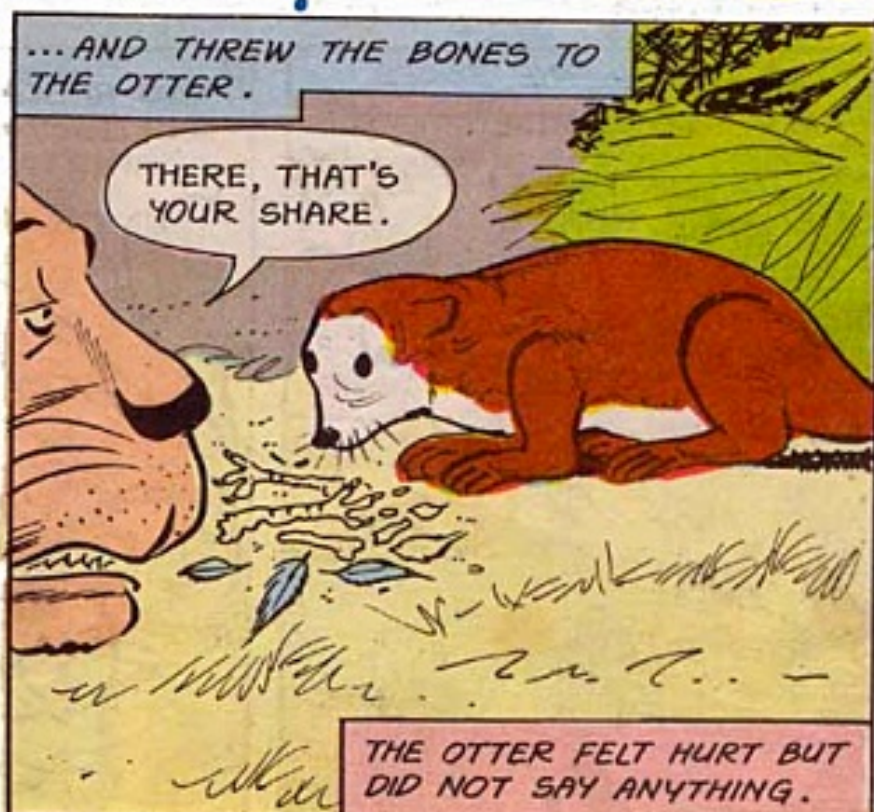


THE CAT ATE  
THE FOWL...



...AND THREW THE BONES TO  
THE OTTER.

THERE, THAT'S  
YOUR SHARE.



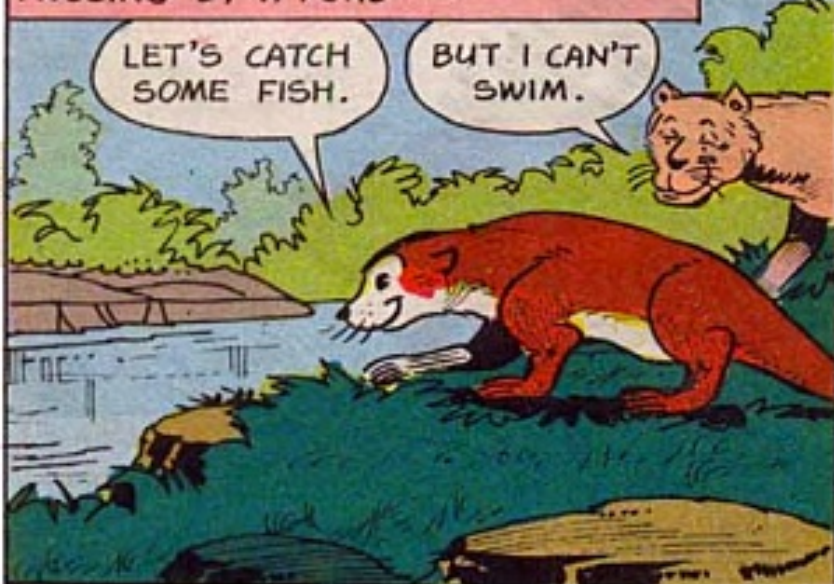
THE OTTER FELT HURT BUT  
DID NOT SAY ANYTHING.



SOME DAYS LATER AS THEY WERE PASSING BY A POND —

LET'S CATCH SOME FISH.

BUT I CAN'T SWIM.



YOU GO INTO THE POND, CATCH THE FISH AND THROW THEM TO ME.



THE OTTER DIVED INTO THE POND...



...CAUGHT AND ATE SEVERAL FISH...



...AND THREW THE BONES TO THE CAT.

THERE!  
THAT'S  
YOUR  
SHARE.



YOU RASCAL!  
I'LL TEAR YOU  
APART.



IN HIS ANGER THE CAT FOR-  
GOT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW  
HOW TO SWIM. HE JUMPED  
INTO THE WATER TO CATCH  
THE OTTER...



...AND WAS  
DROWNED.



# THE BULBUL AND THE HORNBILL

THE HORNBILL WAS ONCE THE KING OF THE BIRDS. BUT HE USED TO KILL SMALLER BIRDS IF THEY MADE THE SLIGHTEST MISTAKE.

SO ONE DAY ALL THE BIRDS GOT TOGETHER AND DECIDED THAT THEY MUST HAVE A NEW KING. THEIR CHOICE FELL ON THE BULBUL.

HE HAS A REGAL APPEARANCE...

... AND HE COULD NOT HURT ANYONE EVEN IF HE WANTED TO.

BUT HOW DO WE BREAK THE NEWS TO THE HORNBILL? HE WON'T BE PLEASED.

I HAVE AN IDEA.

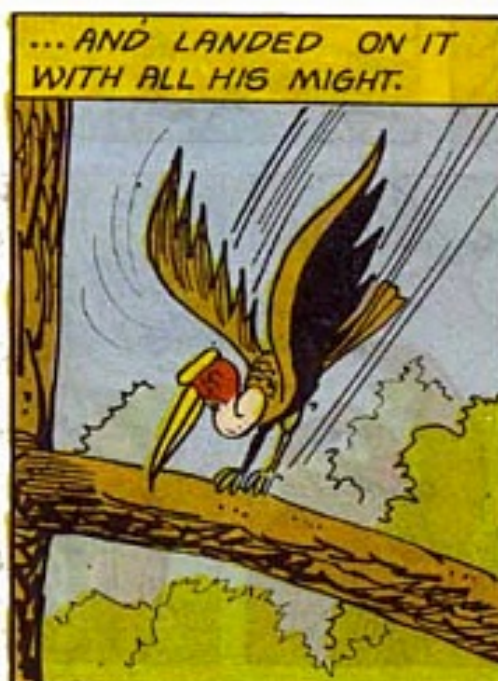
I'LL NEED YOUR HELP, WOODPECKER. COME WITH ME.

SOMETIME LATER —

O KING, WE FEEL THAT YOU SHOULD UNDERGO A TEST AND PROVE YOUR WORTH. YOU WILL HAVE TO SIT ON A THICK BRANCH AND BREAK IT.

IF YOU DON'T SUCCEED, WHOEVER DOES SHALL BE DEEMED WORTHIER OF RULING US.







IF THE BULBUL CAN BREAK  
THAT BRANCH HE  
CERTAINLY DESERVES  
TO BE KING.

GO ON!

WHAT THE HORNBILL DIDN'T KNOW  
WAS THAT THE BRANCH ON WHICH  
THE BULBUL WAS TO SIT HAD BEEN  
BORED THROUGH BY THE WOOD-  
PECKER.

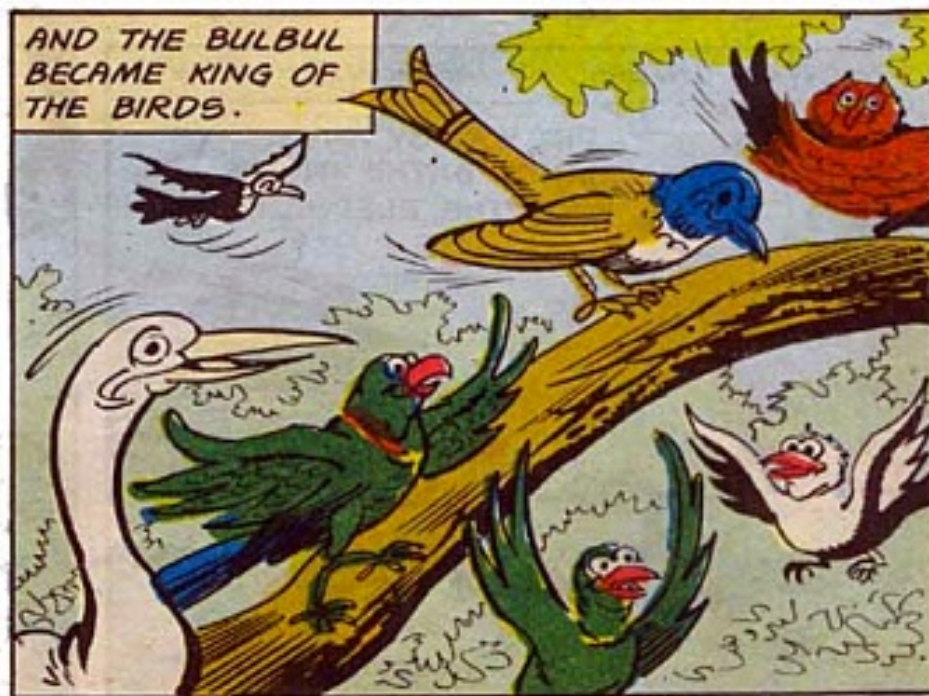
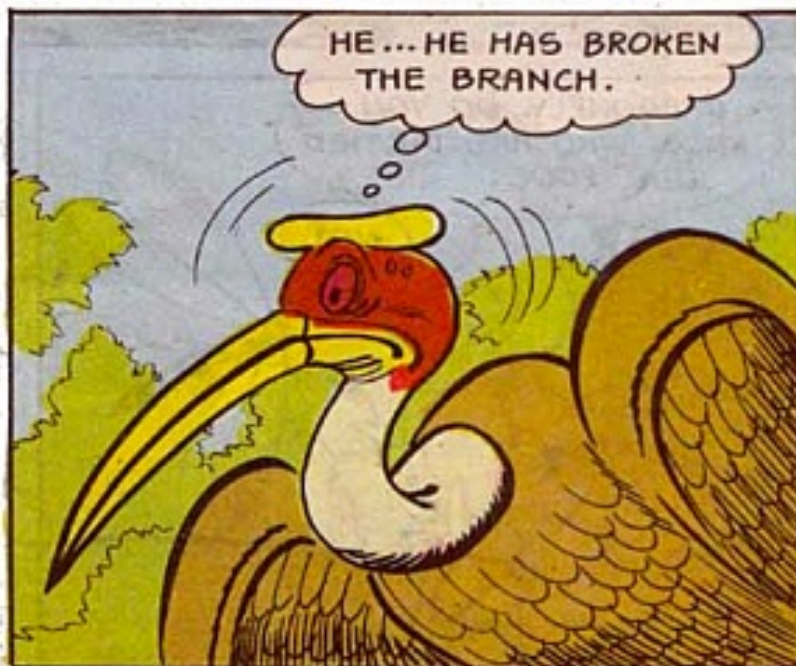
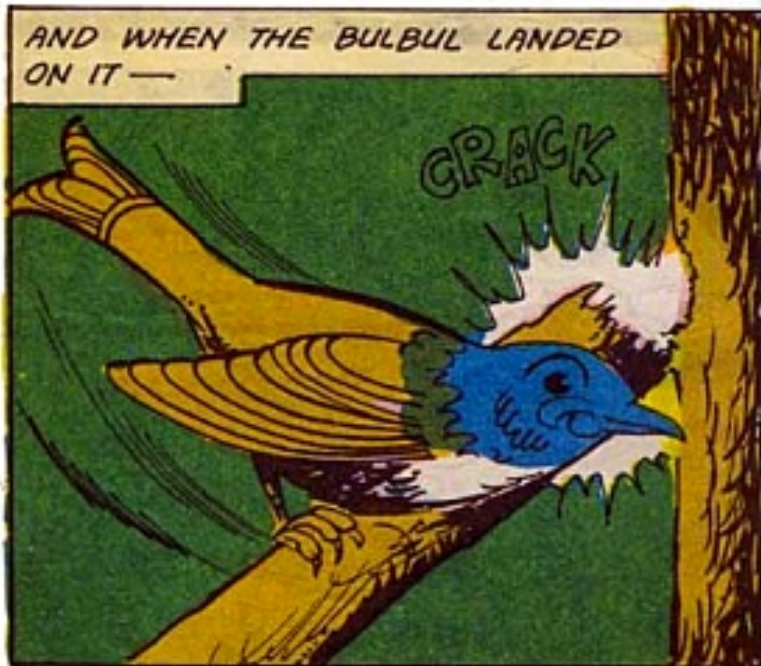
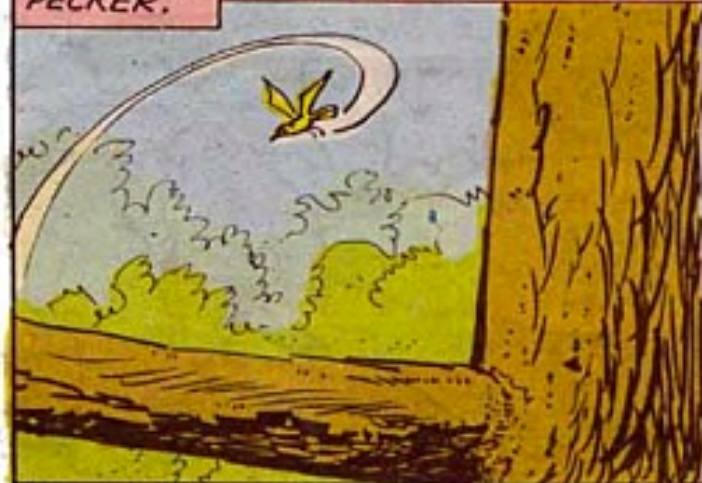
AND WHEN THE BULBUL LANDED  
ON IT —

CRACK

HE... HE HAS BROKEN  
THE BRANCH.

THE HORNBILL ACKNOWLEDG-  
ING DEFEAT FLEW AWAY.

AND THE BULBUL  
BECAME KING OF  
THE BIRDS.





# THE PORCUPINE AND THE ELEPHANTS

A HERD OF ELEPHANTS USED TO BATHE IN A PARTICULAR POOL IN THE JUNGLE. ONE DAY—

WHY IS OUR POOL SO MUDDY TODAY?

SOMEBODY HAS BEEN PLAYING IN THE WATER.

WHO?

DRAGONFLY, DO YOU KNOW WHO HAS DIRTIED OUR POOL.

NO!

IF YOU FIND THE CULPRIT LET US KNOW.

SOMETIME LATER THE DRAGONFLY SAW A PORCUPINE.

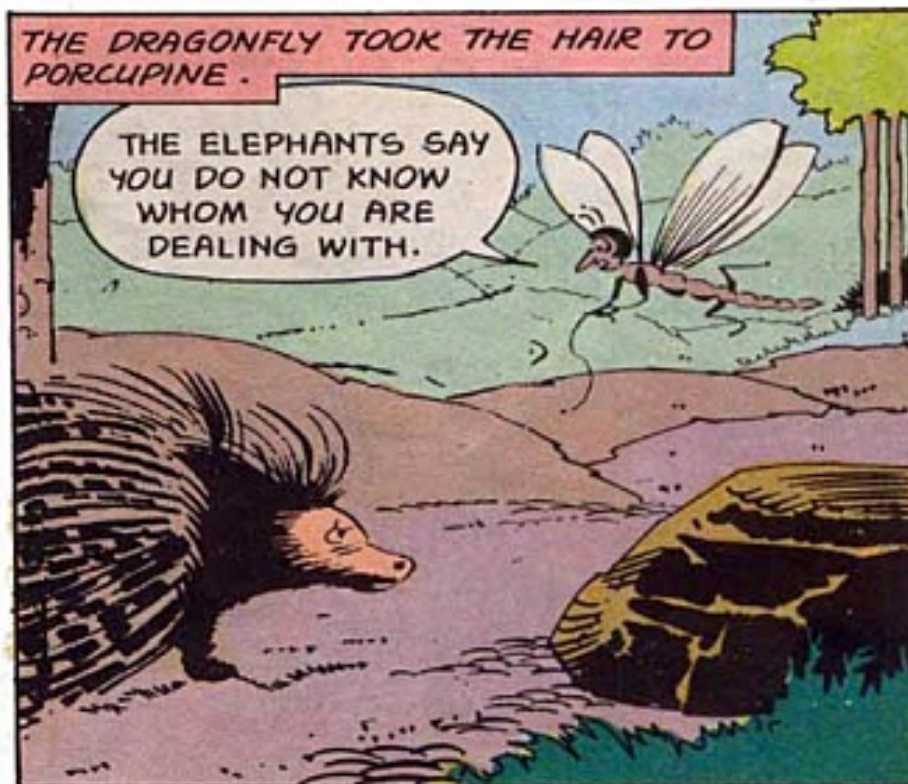
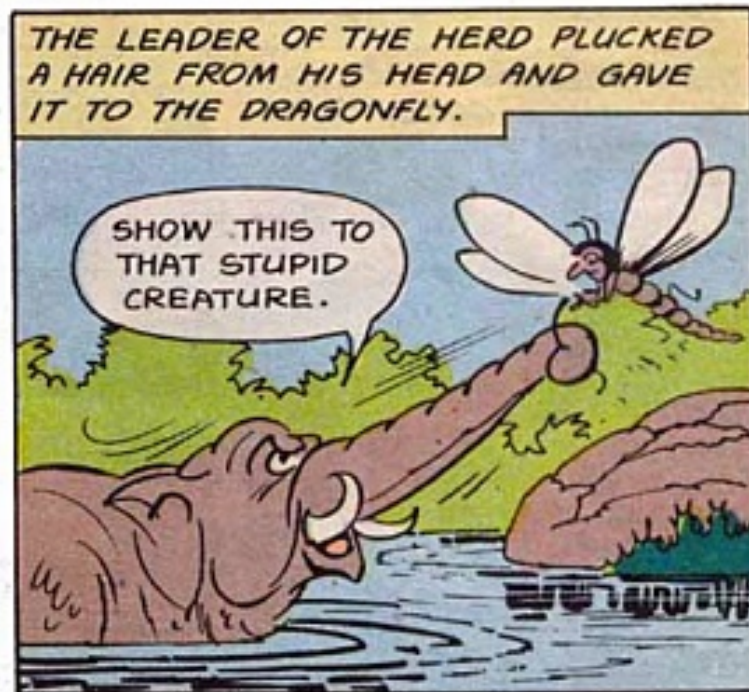
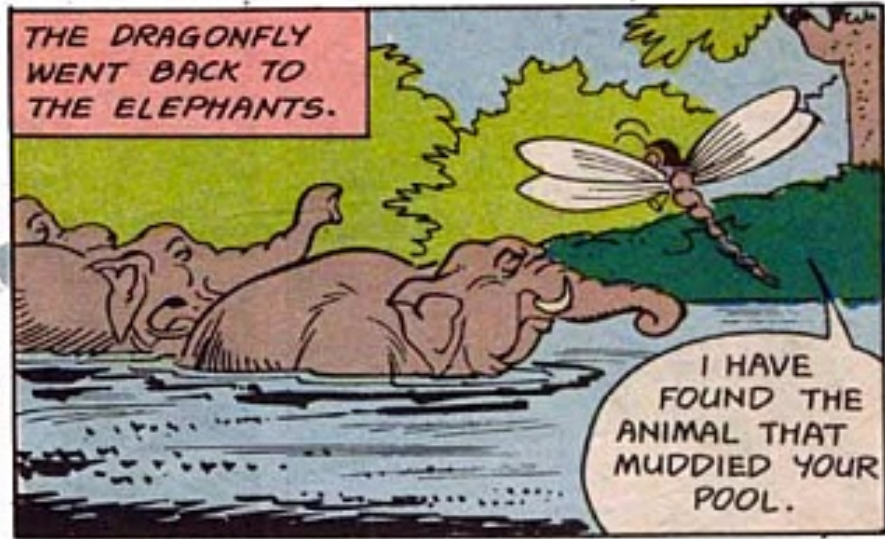
DID YOU BY ANY CHANCE BATHE IN THE POOL THE ELEPHANTS USE?

I DID.

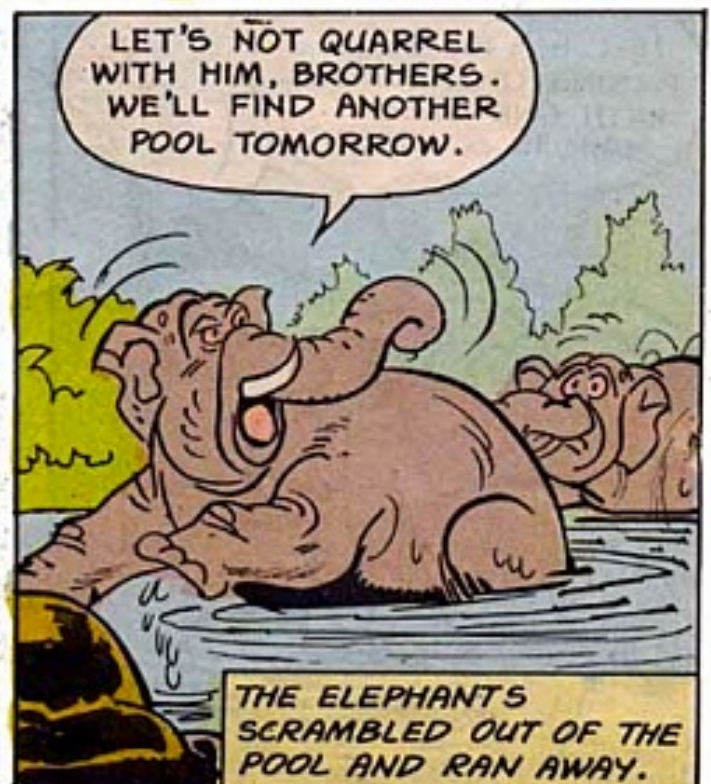
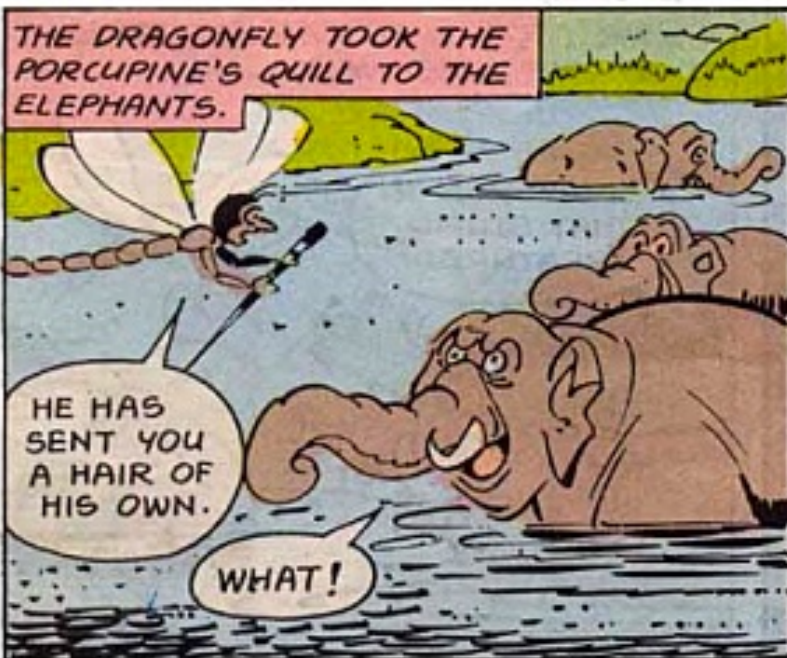
THEY ARE ANNOYED BECAUSE YOU MADE IT SO MUDDY.

I CAN'T HELP IT IF THERE'S SO MUCH MUD IN THAT POOL.











# THE FROG AND THE MONKEY

LONG AGO THERE WAS A RAJA. HE HAD A MONKEY AND A FROG AS HIS SERVANTS. ONE DAY —

GO TO THE FOREST AND BRING ME SOME FRUIT.



AND YOU GET ME SOME FISH FROM THE STREAM.



THE FROG AND THE MONKEY SET OUT TO DO THEIR MASTER'S BIDDING.



BUT WHEN THEY REACHED THE FOREST, THE MONKEY ATE EVERY FRUIT HE PICKED.



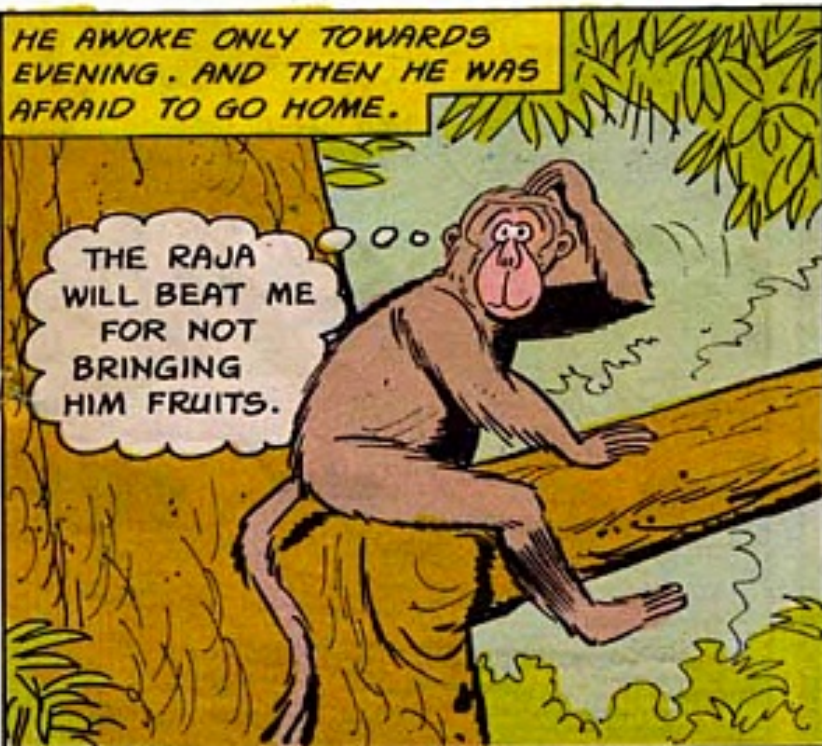
AND WHEN HIS STOMACH WAS FULL...

... HE CURLED UP ON A TREE AND WENT TO SLEEP.



HE AWOKE ONLY TOWARDS EVENING. AND THEN HE WAS AFRAID TO GO HOME.

THE RAJA WILL BEAT ME FOR NOT BRINGING HIM FRUITS.



NOW WHAT SHOULD I DO?





FINALLY HE GOT OFF THE TREE, ROLLED IN THE MUD SEVERAL TIMES ...



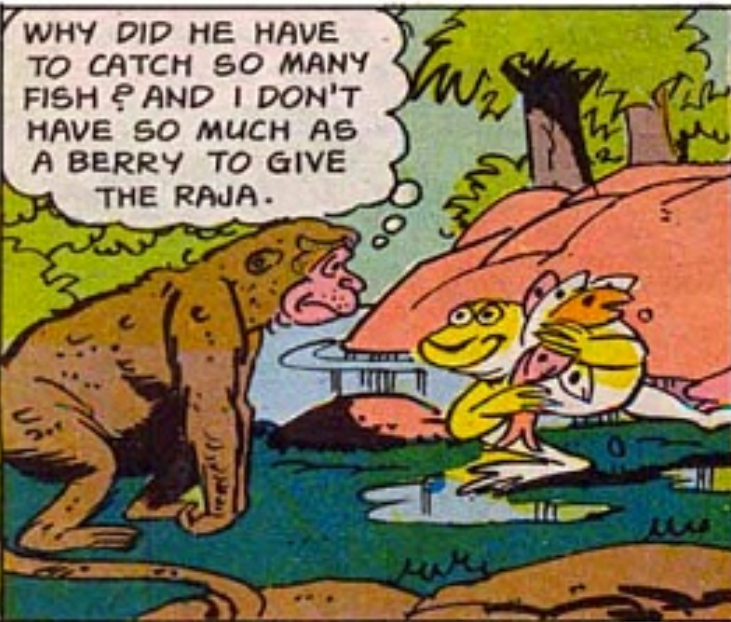
... AND SET OFF FOR HOME.



ON THE WAY HE MET THE FROG. THE FROG HAD WORKED HARD AND CAUGHT A LOT OF FISH.

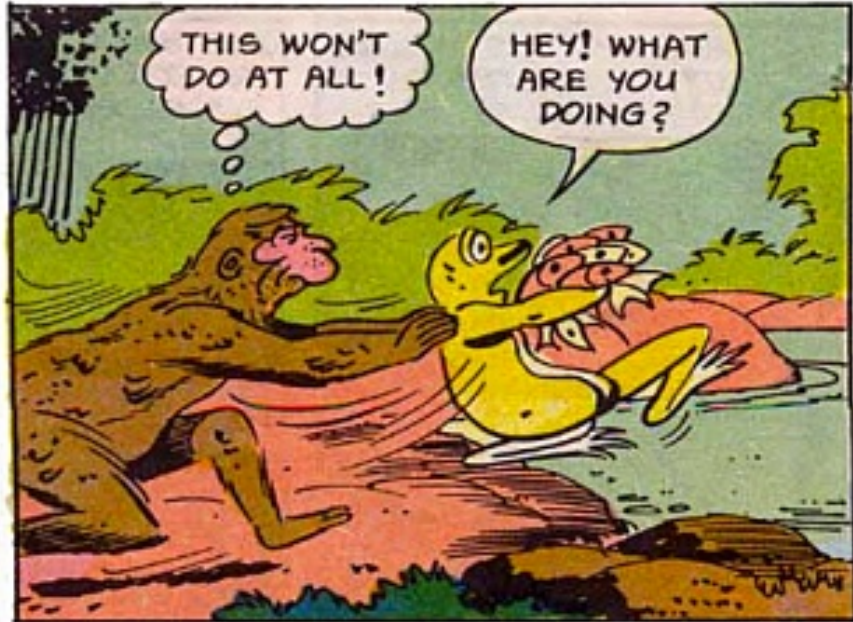


WHY DID HE HAVE TO CATCH SO MANY FISH? AND I DON'T HAVE SO MUCH AS A BERRY TO GIVE THE RAJA.



THIS WON'T DO AT ALL!

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE! I'VE LOST ALL THE FISH!

IT DOESN'T MATTER.





WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF THE RAJA? HE WON'T REMAIN OUR MASTER MUCH LONGER YOU KNOW.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I'M GOING TO REBEL AGAINST HIM.

OH!

AND WHEN I BECOME THE NEW RAJA, I'LL MAKE YOU MY MINISTER.


NOW COME, LET'S GO HOME. TELL HIM YOU DIDN'T CATCH ANY FISH.

THE RAJA WAS VERY ANGRY WHEN HE SAW THE SERVANTS RETURNING EMPTY-HANDED.


WHAT COULD I DO, MASTER? I SCoured THE WHOLE JUNGLE FOR FRUIT-BEARING TREES...

... BUT I COULD NOT FIND ANY. SEE HOW DIRTY AND DISHEVELLED I AM. DOES THAT NOT SHOW THAT I HAVE BEEN WORKING?







HE, ON THE OTHER  
HAND LOOKS SO  
CLEAN AND FRESH.



HE MUST HAVE SPENT  
THE WHOLE DAY  
PLAYING IN THE  
WATER.




YOU KNOW  
THAT'S NOT  
TRUE!



YOU  
USELESS  
CREATURE!


THE RAJA HIT  
HIM SO HARD...

...THAT THE TOP OF HIS HEAD BECAME FLAT.




I SENT YOU TO CATCH  
FISH, NOT TO PLAY  
IN THE WATER!

I DID  
CATCH  
FISH.



BUT HE THREW  
ALL OF THEM  
INTO THE  
STREAM!



I CAN'T STAY HERE  
ANY MORE. THERE'S  
NO JUSTICE HERE.

THE FROG LEFT THE PALACE AND WENT  
TO LIVE IN THE RIVER. BUT FROGS SINCE  
THEN HAVE FLAT HEADS.



THE MONKEY WAS GLAD TO GET RID OF THE FROG. A FEW DAYS LATER HE REBELLED AGAINST THE RAJA.



I MUST ACT FAST IF I AM TO SAVE MYSELF.



THE RAJA MADE A BLACK PASTE...



...AND COVERED HIS FACE WITH IT.



THEN HE WAITED FOR THE MONKEYS TO APPEAR. AFTER SOME TIME —









# THE FROG AND THE TIGER

A FROG AND A TIGER WERE FRIENDS. THE FROG WAS A FREQUENT VISITOR AT THE TIGER'S HOUSE. AND WHENEVER HE CAME, THE TIGER GAVE HIM MEAT TO EAT.



ONE DAY —

I HAVE COME TO YOUR HOUSE SO OFTEN. BUT YOU HAVE NEVER COME TO MINE.



PLEASE COME TO MY HOUSE TOMORROW.

I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO COME. BUT...



... I AM A MEAT-EATER.

AS IF THERE'S NO MEAT IN MY HOUSE!



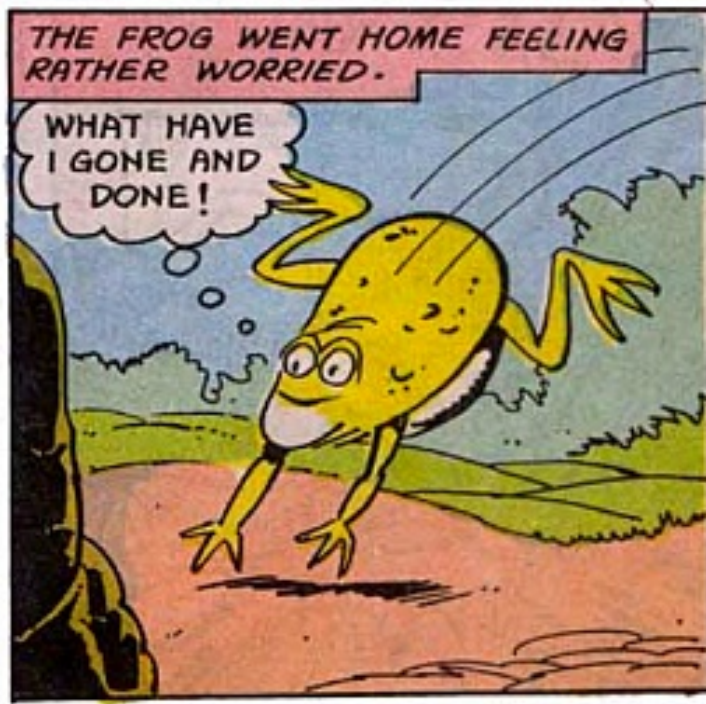
PLEASE DO COME.

OH, ALL RIGHT.

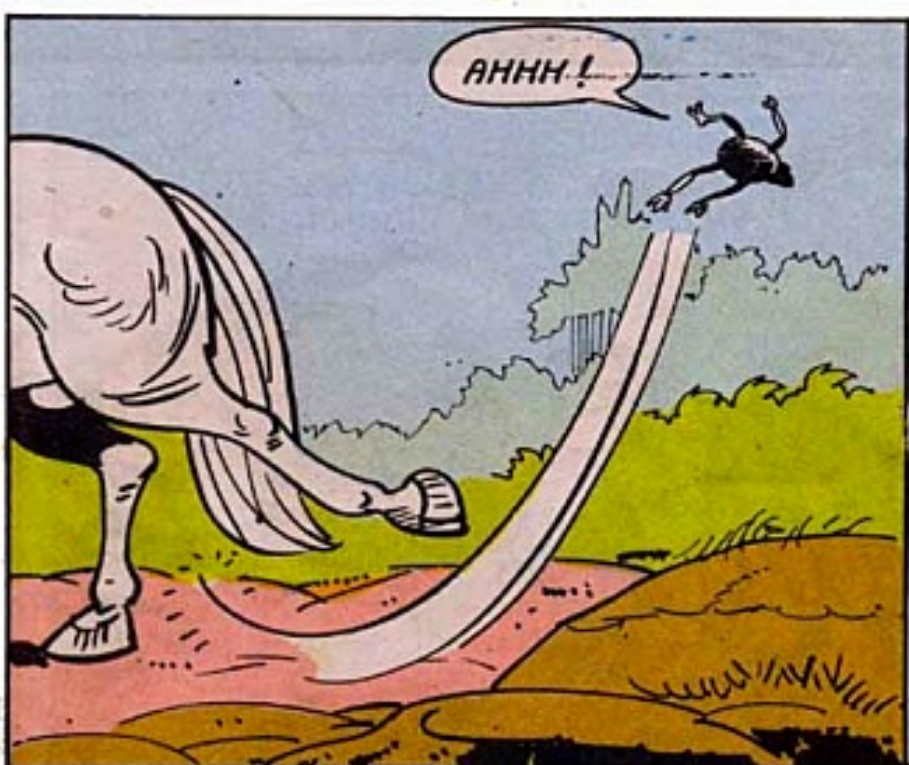
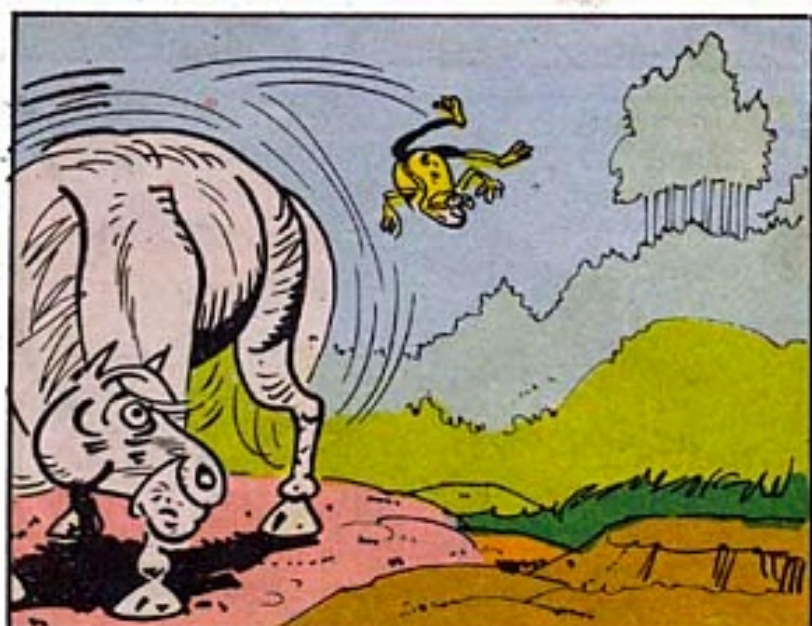
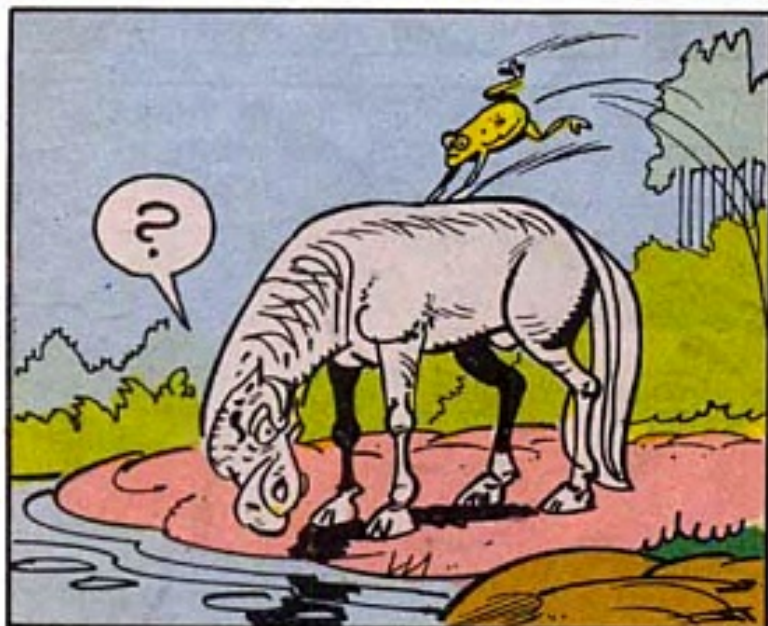


THE FROG WENT HOME FEELING RATHER WORRIED.

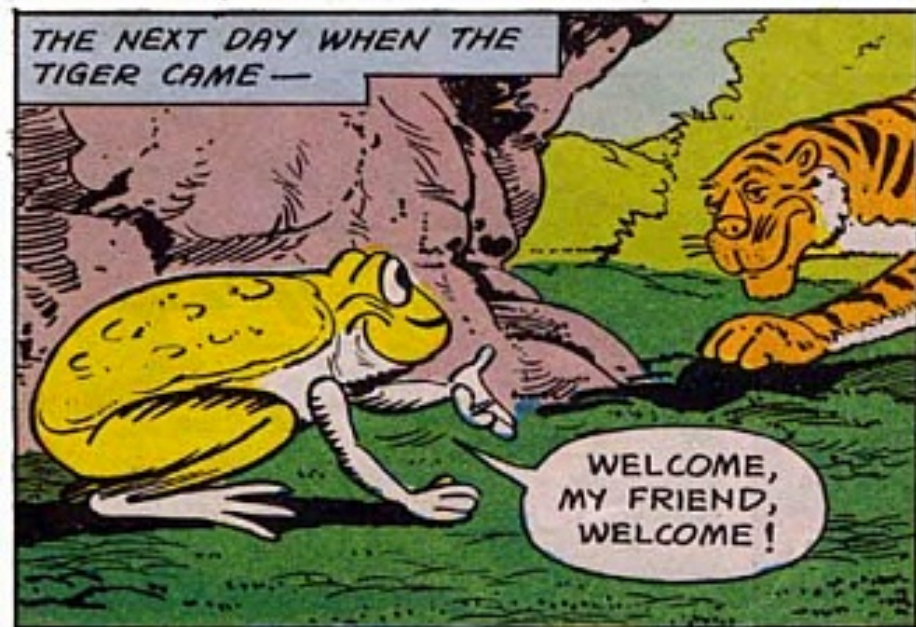
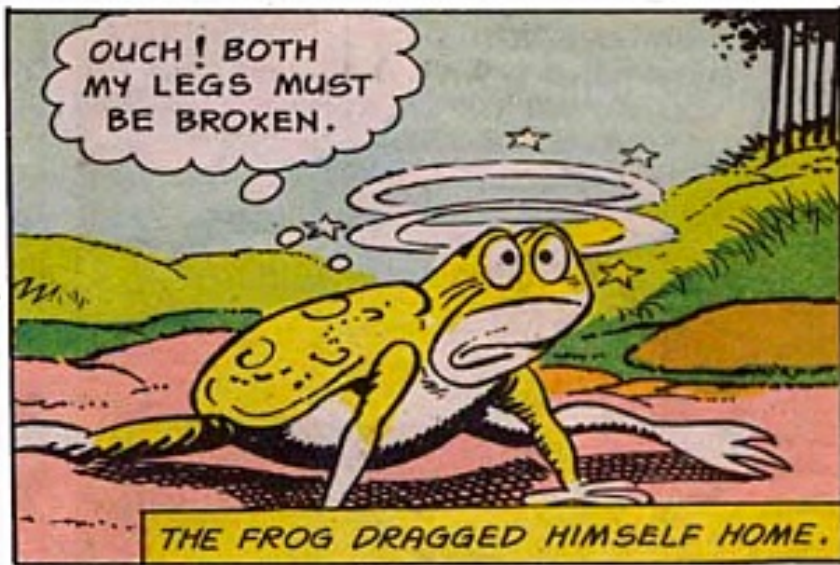
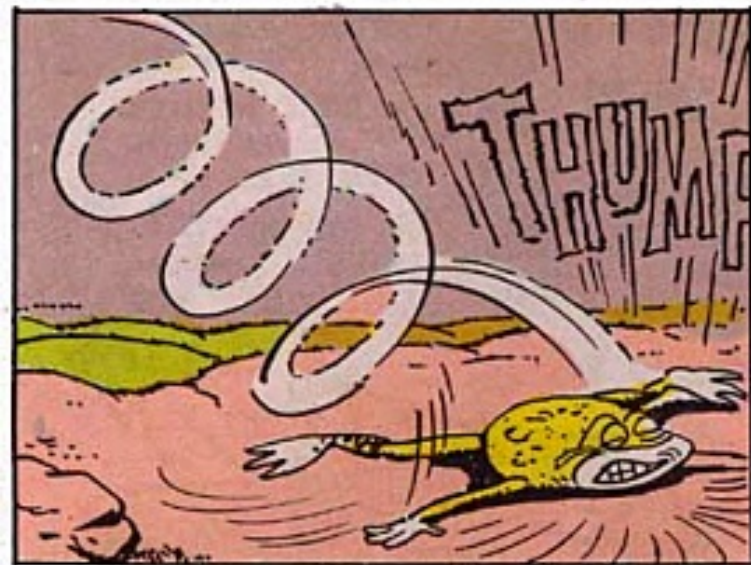
WHAT HAVE I GONE AND DONE!



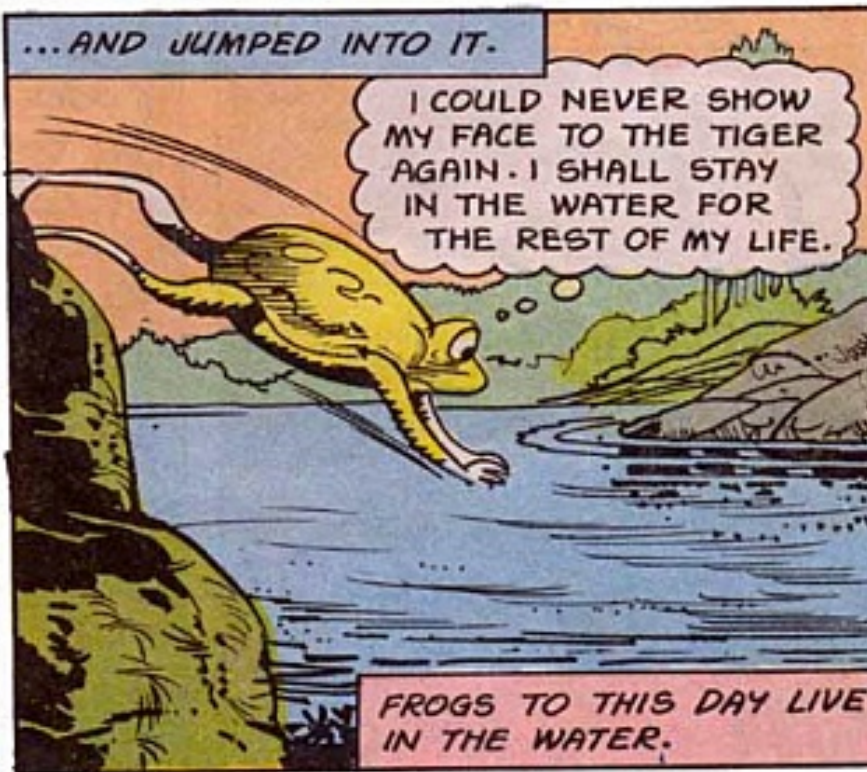




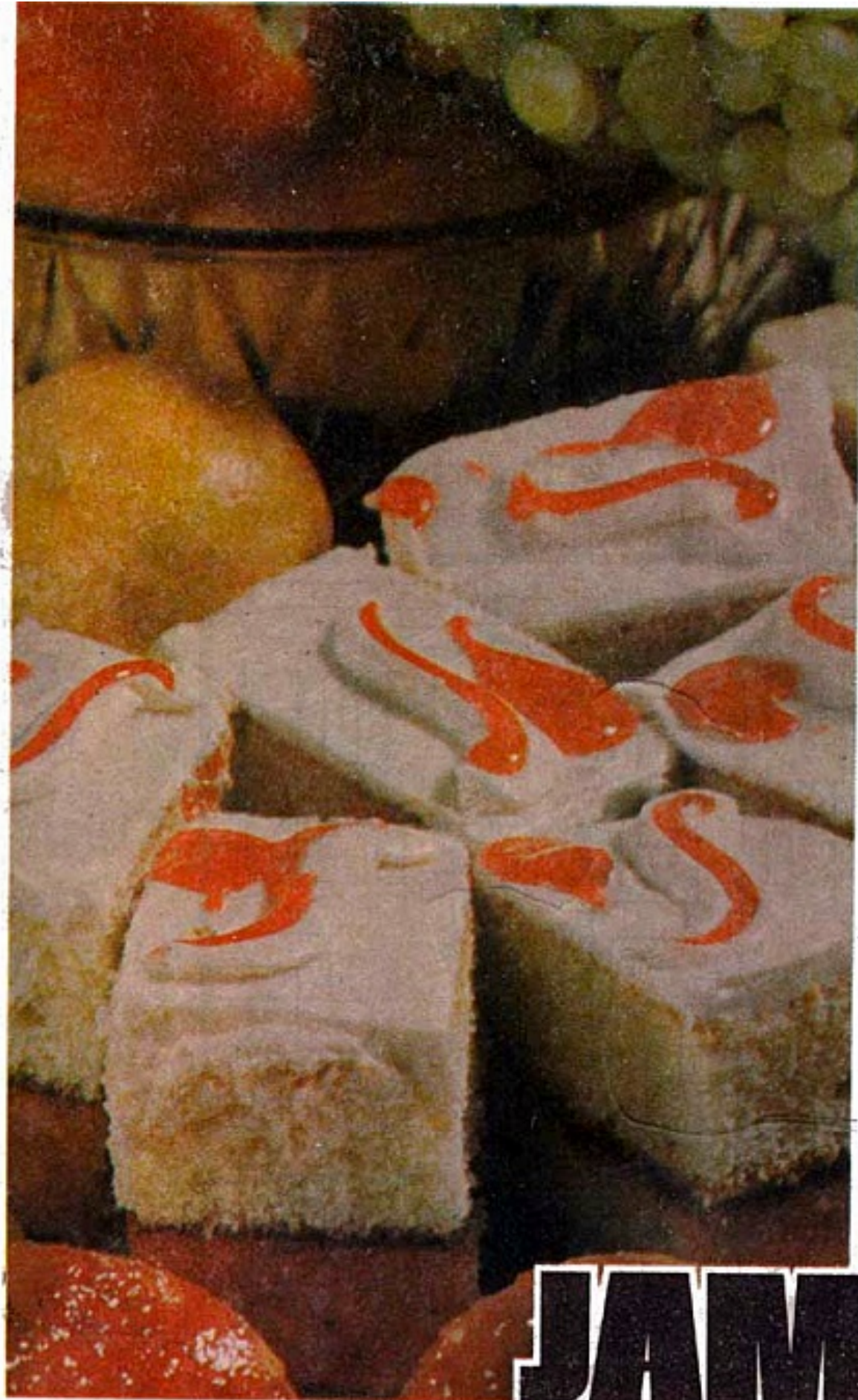












**The Kissan Range**  
Mixed fruit, pineapple,  
strawberry, raspberry,  
mango, apple, apricot,  
Goldenmist orange  
marmalade and  
guava jelly



# JAM GOOD

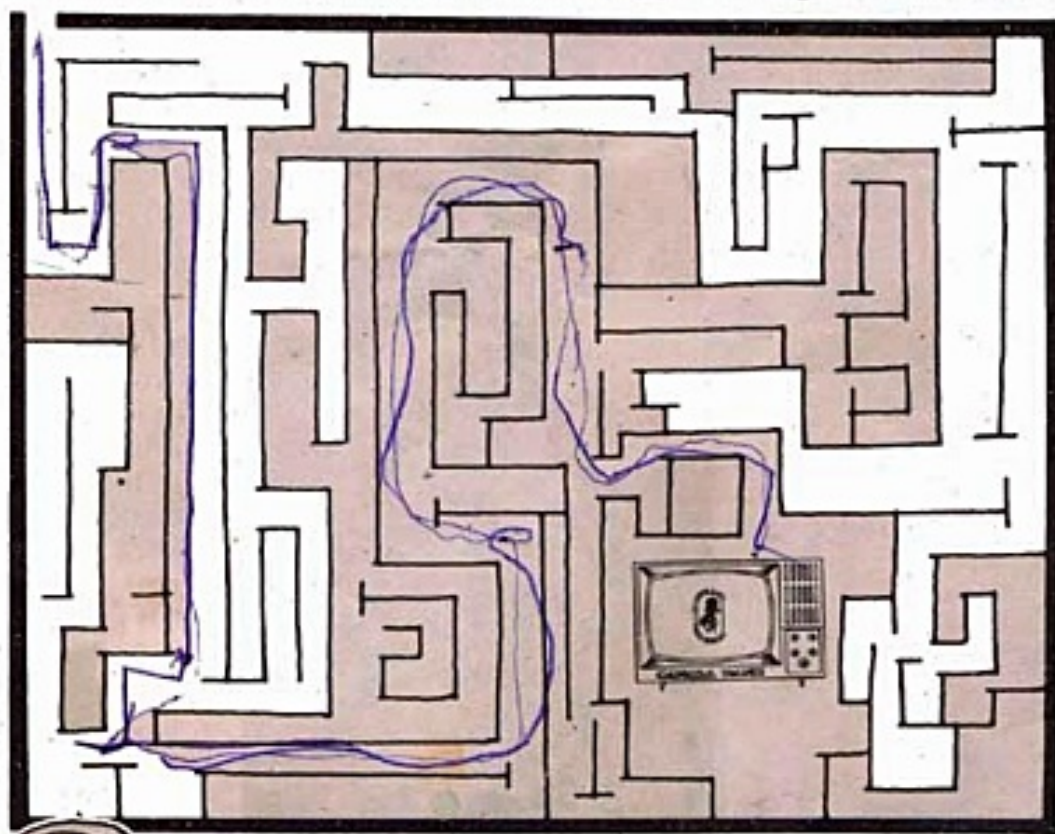




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